

Application No. 10/606,347

Docket No. 4006-258

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A fan protection method for protecting a fan when said fan can not work normally, wherein said method includes a set number of fan stops, said method comprising these steps of:

- (a)stopping said fan;
- (b)determining whether or not a number of fan stops is equal to said set number;
- (c)starting said fan when said number of fan stops is not equal to said set number;
- (d)determining whether or not said fan can work normally;
- (e)resetting said set number when said fan can work normally; and
- (f)cutting off power to said fan ~~performing step (h)~~ when said number of fan stops is equal to said set number;
- (g)~~repeating step (a) to step (f); and~~
- (h)~~cutting off power to said fan.~~

2. (original) The fan protection method according to claim 1, wherein said set number is set by a user.

3. (original) The fan protection method according to claim 1, wherein said number of fan stops is counted by a counter.

4. (currently amended) The fan protection method according to claim 1, wherein said step when said number of fan stops is not equal to said set number, (d) further comprises making said fan keep working when said fan is able to work normally.

5. (currently amended) A fan protection method for protecting a fan when said fan can not work normally, ~~wherein said method sets a first stopping number and a second stopping number for stopping the fan~~, said method comprising these steps of:

- (a)performing a first stopping process to stop said fan;

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~~(a)stopping said fan for a first time period;~~

~~(b)determining whether or not the a number of times of first-stops is equal to said a first stopping number;~~

~~(c)starting said fan when said number of times of first-stops is not equal to said first stopping number;~~

~~(d)stopping said fan for a second time period performing step (f) when said number of times of first-stops is equal to said first stopping number or repeating above steps when said number of fan stops is not equal to said set number;~~

~~(e)repeating step (a) to step (d);~~

~~(f)performing a second stopping process to stop said fan;~~  
starting said fan;

~~(h)determining whether or not the number of times of second-stops is equal to said a second stopping number;~~

~~(h)starting said fan when said number of times of second stops is not equal to said second stopping number;~~

~~performing step (k) cutting off power to said fan when said number of times of second-stops is equal to said second stopping number; and~~

~~repeating the above steps (a) to step (i) when said number of fan restarts is not equal to said second stopping number; and,~~

~~(k)cutting off power to said fan.~~

6. (currently amended) The fan protection method according to claim 5, wherein said first time period and said second time period are~~number of times of first stops and said number of times of second stops are both~~ set by a user.

7. (original) The fan protection method according to claim 5, wherein said first stopping number and said second stopping number are set by a user.

8. (currently amended) The fan protection method according to claim 5, wherein said fan stops~~first stopping number and said second stopping number are~~ is counted by a counters.

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9. (original) The fan protection method according to claim 5, wherein said step (c) further comprises making said fan keep working when said fan is able to work normally and resetting said first stopping number.

10. (currently amended) The fan protection method according to claim 5, wherein ~~said step (h)~~ further comprises making said fan keep working when said fan is able to work normally.

11. (currently amended) A fan protection apparatus for protecting a fan when said fan can not work normally, wherein said apparatus has a set number of fan restarts, said apparatus comprising:

a control circuit for stopping said fan or starting said fan; and

a first counter connecting to said control circuit for counting a number of fan restarts;

wherein a control signal is generated when said number of fan restarts is equal to said set number and said control signal is transferred to said control circuit to stop said fan for a first time period.

12. (original) The fan protection apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said control circuit sends a reset signal to reset said first counter when said fan is able to work normally.

13. (currently amended) The fan protection apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said first time period is set by a user.

14. (currently amended) The fan protection apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said apparatus further comprises a second counter connected to said first counter to determine ~~control~~ the number of times of stopping said fan ~~to stop work~~ for a first time period.

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15. (currently amended) The fan protection apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the number of times of stopping said fan steps work for a first time period is set by a user.

16. (currently amended) The fan protection apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said control circuit cuts off power to said fan when said number of times of stopping said fan steps work for a first time period is equal to said set number.

17. (original) The fan protection apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said control circuit sends a reset signal to reset said second counter when said fan is able to work normally.

18. (currently amended) A fan protection apparatus for protecting a fan when said fan can not work normally, wherein said apparatus sets a first stopping number and a second stopping number for stopping the fan, said apparatus comprising:

a control circuit for stopping said fan or starting said fan; and

a first counter connected to said control circuit for counting a number of fan restarts, wherein a control signal is generated when said number of fan restarts is equal to said first stopping number and said control signal is transferred to said control circuit to stop said fan for a first time period; and

a second counter connected to said first counter for receiving said control signal, wherein said second counter counts the number of times of stopping said fan steps for a the first time period, and said control circuit cuts off power to said fan when said number of times of stopping said fan for a second time period steps is equal to said second stopping number.

19. (original) The fan protection apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said first time, said first stopping number, and said second stopping number are set by a user.

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20. original) The fan protection apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said control circuit sends a reset signal to reset said first and said second counter when said fan is able to work normally.

21. (New) The fan protection method according to claim 1, further comprising repeating above steps when said number of fan stops is not equal to said set number.

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